Play & Learning Newsletter

14th - 18th December 2020

A fun last week with lots of very excited (and tired!) children! The highlight of the week has been receiving a video message from Santa himself! The children were amazed that he was talking to them and it brought up some interesting conversations about where Santa was, what his voice sounds like and why he wasn’t wearing a hat! Santa read us a story, ‘Dear Santa’ and then told us that he needed some help to make magic on Christmas Eve. He explained that his reindeer need magic to fly so if they don’t have enough he won’t be able to deliver all the presents. He had left a special present for each child under the Pre-school Christmas tree - a little sleigh bell with their name on. Every time the bell is shaken it makes magic! The instructions are to shake it on Christmas Eve night so that the reindeers have enough magic to fly all night. Very excited children!

We have also created own videos this week with the children singing some of our Christmas songs – some videos were more successful than others though! What are the rules in television? Never work with children or animals? Well, as predicted, the minute we pointed the camera at them they started doing all the things we hoped they wouldn’t!! You can see the results on Facebook. It’s not quite the same as our Family Christmas Evening but hopefully you’ll get a little taste of what it might have been like – the antics of the children are definitely the same ** !

Other highlights this week have been glittery peppermint smelling playdough, shape activities linked to presents, glittery oats in the home corner for cooking, Christmas tree painting and printing, creating homes for Elvis and his friends and lots and lots of dancing and playing games to Christmas music!

 **Sounds and Letters/language focus:** This week we took a break from ‘letters and sounds’ focus and spent our group times reading Christmas stories, talking about the characters and the reasons for why things happened in the story – developing those early comprehension skills.

**Ideas to support your child at home:**

* *Enjoy them! Make the most of their excitement and belief in the magic of Christmas – it’s what it’s all about! Before you know it that time will go (we speak from experience ) so make the most of wide eyes and jumping up and down with the joy of it all. And remember – boxes and wrapping paper are just as fascinating as new toys so don’t spend a fortune on them – simple things are the best.*

*Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in January.*

*Ps Don’t forget to shake your jingle bells at 6 pm on Christmas Eve to make enough magic for the reindeer to fly!*